



"We demand the prosecution of an offensive war, relentlessly and without reservation, whatever it may cost in wealth, energy or human life, until the United States and its allies have won a complete victory . . . We will recognize no peace . . . except **PEACE WITH VICTORY**, and we will never entertain proposals of peace until that victory be won,"—From a statement of policy adopted by the Republican Nat'l. Committee.



For those who will not be *Mentally Marooned*

# WORLD WEEK

What's the simple substance of this talk about rationing and "price ceilings"?

It adds up to this: With more productive capacity turned to war materiel, fewer ships for imports, there will be limited quantities of many necessities and semi-luxuries. Situation not alarming, but must be faced realistically. Rationing is only practicable plan to prevent those with surplus money from securing undue allotment of available stores.

Another reason for rationing: Gov't is resolved to limit and circumscribe things for which wage-earner may spend money. This tends further to hold production in line; leaves worker a larger surplus to invest in war securities. This action, in turn, gives individual greater sense of participation; helps cushion war's aftermath.

Price control is natural concomitant of rationing. Prevents venders from profiteering on available supplies. "Price ceiling" means, practically, fixing all prices—production, wholesale, retail—at the present or pre-determined levels. It sets maximum beyond which prices aren't permitted to go. They *can* go down, but there isn't likely to be congestion of traffic in that direction.

Now, retailers on the whole, have done excellent job holding prices down. Many are selling present stocks at less than replacement cost. They argue, logically, that if prices are pegged at today's levels, they will be put out of business. Merchants want wholesale ceiling set first; retail to follow in 60 days, giving them time to adjust prices upward in relation to wholesale cost. Probably won't be done quite that way, but some equitable adjustment is necessary. There are other complications, to be sure, and plenty of politics mixed in, but this is quick over-all picture.

**MADAGASCAR:** QUOTE readers will not be surprised by week's developments on this strategic isle. We told you long ago it was under complete Axis control.

**SPAIN:** Note it was Suer, not Franco, who promised million men at Hitler's summons. It's phooey talk. With second-front threat growing daily, Franco wouldn't dare take a million men out of Spain; nor could Hitler permit it. Moreover, poverty-stricken Spain couldn't equip such an army, and we doubt that Nazis could take on assignment right now.

**RUSSIA:** Subscriber asks clarification of our recent statement that Russia is weaker, in relation to Germany than a year ago. We refer, of course, to over-all strength of both nations. However, it is a question how much of Germany's total strength she can throw against Russia. Hitler is already diverting much material to protection of West coast.

We say Russia is weaker now because she has lost her principal industrial and agricultural areas, and valuable

## Quote

### prophesies . . .

**FRANCE:** We think Hitler intended to have Laval play role of "strong man," working subtly to unite France, and if possible drive wedge between Britain and U. S. But he has again misinterpreted temper of foreign folk. Neither France nor U. S. is deceived. Laval is too well known as man who will "say anything that pops into Hitler's head."

We now expect technique of the Crack-down. Quick, drastic action, including seizure of such units of French fleet as Nazis can lay hands on. Hitler's fear of invasion spurred further by Commando raid on Boulogne.

**RATIONING:** Rationing and price control are absolute certainties for near future.

mineral sources. No one outside of Gov't has accurate figures on present Russian production, or on deliveries from U. S. and Britain, but it is safe to assume these will not approach Nazi continental production. Russia has one superiority, which she is using with great skill—her manpower.

We continue temperately optimistic on Russian situation. Russia teeters on verge of moves that might prove of great consequence. Example: Occupation of Smolensk might lead to crack of whole Central German line. Obviously, Russian harassing movements of Winter have put Hitler off schedule, a delay that may yet prove fatal to his plans.

**PACIFIC:** We think there is danger in build-up of MacArthur to proportions no hero could meet; and in such incidents as reported bombing of Tokio. Public may be led to assume Pacific tide has turned. It hasn't. Plain truth: MacArthur cannot hope to sustain any sizeable offensive for weeks or months to come. He can hope to do little more than ward enemy off Australian mainland.

Bombing of Philipines and Tokio are spectacular gestures of little immediate military value. In Burma we continue delaying tactics, counting on rains to help. But situation is not good.

. . . — "Public Cuts Pork From Menu"—Now, if we could just induce Congress. . . !

*Harold Lloyd*  
Publisher.

# Quote

"He Who Never Quotes, is Never Quoted"—Charles Haddon Spurgeon

"It's the 'floaters' who are doing most of the yelling about high rents. We aren't going to stick our necks out to protect them."—A Member of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce Committee, appointed to investigate rental conditions in defense areas.

"The U. S. is especially vulnerable to air attack. I am convinced that when the onslaught comes, it will not be of the 'token' variety. It will be on a large scale, geared to score a decision."—Maj. P. de SEVERSKY, in *Town & Country*.

"We must either act—or learn to eat rice and to do the goose-step."—HAROLD ICKES.

"I know why I am going to fight—it's to save the country, and I'm eager to begin. But I wish someone would explain to me why all this happened, and what we will have to do after we have licked them. It won't make me fight better, but it may make me think better, if I come back alive."—Letter from a nineteen-year-old boy.

"What we need in America is a 'divine column,' protagonists of the Christian ideology."—BERNARD IDDINGS BELL, in his book *Still Shine the Stars*.

"Organized labor has the farmers, consumers and businessmen of this country at its mercy, and is injuring and destroying independent businessmen."—Ass't. Att'y-Gen'l THURMAN ARNOLD.

"There's a lot of good will, but very little common sense going into women's war work."—ILKA CHASE, actress and radio commentator.

"May we  
Quote  
you on that?"

"The home as the social center has disappeared. Crime and insanity have increased. And what have we gained? Material things? Yes. But the 'good life' has disappeared."—Dr. HAROLD C. HABEIN, Mayo Clinic.

"Mothers and girl friends, lonesome for boys in uniform, shouldn't sit down and have a 'good cry.' To prevent emotional collapse, cultivate outside interests. Perhaps the best move is to get a job in a war industry."—Dr. HARRIET E. O'SHEA, associate professor of psychology, Purdue U.

"Sometimes I wonder what we are doing going around prodding the public. I feel that people are very much alert to the situation and that what they need most is just plain recreation in the theatre."—HELEN HAYES, on the eve of closing her season with the war play, "Candle in the Wind."

"Somebody said this was a time when leaders should keep their ears to the ground. All I can say is that the British nation will find it very hard to look up to leaders who were detected in that somewhat ungainly posture."—WINSTON CHURCHILL.

"The debacle of France can be largely attributed to tuberculosis, syphilis and drinking, especially drinking. France got her sense of security out of a bottle."—Dr. MASON SMITH, Tampa (Fla.) neurologist.

"Build the boys the safest plane in the air today."—HENRY FORD, in his instructions to CHARLES A. LINDBERGH when the flyer began work at Ford's huge bomber plant.

"War is a tremendous consumer of raw materials—including words."—Editorial in *N. Y. Times*.

"There is lots of ways to cut down Taxes you Probly havent thought of. Why dont you Put a 1/2c tax on each Bottle of Soft drinks. I dont like pop."—Letter to the Governor of Indiana.

"The people of France say to us, in effect: 'We are with you still. No Frenchman, only a Laval, could be found to do this dirty thing. Please come and save us. Come Quickly'."—SAMUEL GRAFTON, *Chicago Sun*.

"Earning money isn't enough. It only buys some of the clay with which we mold our lives."—FAY BAINTER

"History will record whether we have moved too fast or too slow."—DONALD M. NELSON, commenting on the move to curtail and convert civilian industries.

"I have a sure-fire way of stopping the spread of rumors and tall tales about the war. On my coat lapel I wear a button that asks, 'How do you know?'"—BOB BURNS, radio star.

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**ARMY—Bonus**

What will the soldier or sailor find when he dons mufti again? Will his country be in the grip of a post-war depression? Will he be able to get his old job back? There is, I submit, a way to quiet such apprehensions. It is to decide *now* to pay him a cash bonus or pension. . . . Why wait till peace comes to give the man in uniform the assurance he will be cared for? I suggest that Congress at once vote adjusted compensation at the rate of \$1 a day for service in Continental United States and \$2 a day for overseas service. . . . Assurance to the serviceman that he will have that help in gearing himself into post-war civil life would bolster his morale through dark days ahead, and it would take some of the sting out of the \$21 a month the serviceman draws while high wages are paid workers on war production. But that is not all. It would put 3 billion dollars of new money into trade channels when wartime production rapidly tapers off, the very time it is needed most. This and the pent-up demand for goods would certainly hasten the conversion to peace-time production.—Condensed from Dr. WITT EMERY's, "Let's Plan Now for the Bonus," *The Rotarian*, 4-42.

**CHRISTIANITY—Future**

Unless American Christians think more deeply into the nature and meaning of the crisis of our civilization, of which the war is only one phase, they will come out of this period as adolescents. It is likely that the spiritual leadership of the world Christian movements tomorrow will come from the churches of Europe and some of the very young churches across the Pacific.—Dr. ROSWELL P. BARNES.

**CLEANLINESS**

Spring Cleaning wouldn't be so bad if women would really *clean* and get it done; but they just keep pushing dust around from one place to the other apparently on the theory that sooner or later it'll get lost.

In this regard, a Professor Fracker of Harvard conducted a rather interesting experiment in his own house recently. He took a piece of dust, marked it with a bit of red string and deposited it on a closet shelf. The following morning, after his wife had finished cleaning, he found the piece of dust over on the floor under the bureau; he discovered the same piece of dust downstairs in the living-room behind a picture of his wife's mother. During the following week, it showed

**The Psychological Deadlock**

By ERNEST K. LINDLEY

Even Pres. Roosevelt's critics give him credit for being a master of mass psychology. The recent procession of events in Washington, however, raises doubt that he is analyzing correctly the temper of the country . . .

There is no lack of patriotism. But there is clearly a fear on the part of nearly every economic group that its patriotism is being or may be exploited for the private economic gain of another group. The seat of the trouble is a sense of unequal sacrifice. Labor points to high salaries and bonuses of managers, and to corporation profits. Management points to the trade-unionism-as-usual of labor. The farmers point to both management and labor and they in turn point to the farmers. The result is a psychological deadlock . . .

The President seems to be going on the theory that he has to "sell" the war to the American public . . . Administration spokesmen complain of public complacency. There is less evidence of complacency than of discontent. The main ingredient of this discontent cannot be hardships imposed by the war, because only a few have felt them, and they are not complaining. One suspects that the root of the trouble is that the Administration is treating American civilians as if they were soft and selfish when they want to live like heroes.

When MacArthur says, "We shall win, or we shall die" he inspires all who hear or read his words, as Churchill did when he offered the British people "blood, sweat, toil and tears."

Light and hesitant taps will not break the psychological deadlock in which the American people are gripped. Perhaps they can be lifted out of it by an inspiring leadership which assumes that the great majority are eager to sacrifice until it hurts.—Condensed from *Newsweek*.

up successively underneath the kitchen stove, inside the radio, and finally lodged on the leaf of a large *apodistra* plant in the front hall. The only way he got rid of it at last was to sweep it up himself and exhibit it triumphantly to his wife, as a result of which the piece of dust was thrown out of the front door, closely followed by Professor Fracker.—COREY FORD, "I'm a Fugitive from a Dust pan," *Better Homes and Gardens*, 4-42.

**DEMOCRACY**

Trouble is, we don't recognize Democracy when we see it in action. India's insistence on freedom seems to some of us merely an unlucky accident, an unfortunate damn-that-thing.

Take another look. This is our old friend, Democracy; perhaps hard to recognize when it wears a turban and a red spot in the middle of its forehead, but our very own friend, Democracy, none the less. And if I were an Englishman I might say to myself: "I'm glad I am on the side of this thing that is stirring and pushing in China and India. I'd hate to have it against me."—SAMUEL GRANTON, in his Syndicated Feature, "I'd Rather be Right."

**DRESS—And Morale**

When a customer who seems unhappy or depressed comes in to see Sally Victor, famous designer, about a hat, she really settles down to selling her a hat.

"Women talk to me about vitamins," says Sally Victor. "I say to them, 'Have you tried a new hat?'"—VERDE M. WHITING, "Hats by Sally Victor," *Independent Woman*, 4-42.

**ENDURANCE—Oriental**

Several years ago, both whites and Orientals were subjected to extensive tests in metabolism at Peiping. Experimenters were astounded to learn that Orientals required much less food than whites to exert the same amount of energy. Orientals, moreover, may restore their energy by merely relaxing, while white men must actually sleep. Finally, their small feet and ability to use their toes almost like fingers make them agile tree-climbers.

It would seem, from these findings, that our side is going to need not only more ships, tanks and planes—but infinitely more men than the foe— . . . which rarely tires or eats, and fights from the top trees.

Happy for us, the Chinese are Orientals, too.—LEO FONTAINE, "Through the Show Globe," *American Druggist*, 3-42.

## ERSATZ PRODUCTS

The chemical industry seems to have finally developed an endless chain of substitutes:

1. Cotton is made of wood;
2. Wood is made of fibres;
3. Fibres are made of glass;
4. Glass is made of plastics;
5. Plastics are made of cotton.

(Start over)

—WESTON SMITH, *Financial World*, 4-8-'42.

## Sparks for Speakers

The late Sen. Albert J. Beveridge's counsel to public speakers: "The audience wants nothing of the speaker so much as that he shall get to the point. We remember the advice of a veteran on the platform to an aspiring young orator: 'If you don't strike oil in two minutes, stop boring.'"

" "

The philosophy of a veteran Southern evangelist: "I make 'em feel the flames; I make 'em hear the harps!"

## FARMS—Production

American farmers will produce in 1942:

Hogs enough to make a solid procession two abreast, snout to tail, clear around the world.

VEGETABLES enough for one serving of good thick soup three times every day for every man, woman and child in the United States.

PEANUT and Soybean Oil to make more than sixty bars of soap as big as the R.C.A. building (largest office building in the world).

EGGS enough so that if you broke one every second it would take 1,600 years to break them all.

MILK enough in 10-gallon cans to build 25 pyramids the size of the great pyramid of Egypt.—*Extension Service Review*.

## GARDENS, GARDENING

I have a new plan for my garden. I think I shall plant nothing but cactus. I am told that this plant needs no attention; and takes 800 years to mature. That's just the kind of plant I've been looking for!—HOWARD VINCENT O'BRIEN, *Chicago Daily News*.

## HUMOR—In Germany

If humor is to be found at all in so great a human tragedy as the Nazi regime, it is in its humorlessness. There is a Joke Court in Germany which punishes defendants for every

So well had inside preparations been made that only six men had been killed in the brief battle before the defenders were defeated. Bewildered the people watched as their town was occupied; dumbfounded they learned of the storekeeper's treachery. Then began to spread thru them a sullen, silent hate. Vengeance was sly but unrestrained. The nerves of the invaders grew taut. "Deeper and deeper into molasses," hysterically shrielled Lieutenant Tonder. "Maybe the Leader is crazy. Flies conquer flypaper!" Such is the plot of JOHN STEINBECK's top-ranking best-seller *The Moon is Down* (Viking, \$2). The time is the present; the scene, any occupied country; and the invaders, obvious. Confused, a bit afraid, Mayor Orden still knows his people.

"Orden, these things must stop."

And the Mayor smiled helplessly at him. "They cannot stop, sir."

Colonel Lanser said harshly, "I arrested you as a hostage for the good behavior of your people. Those are my orders."

"But that won't stop it," Orden said simply. "You don't understand. When I have become a hindrance to the people, they will do without me."

Lanser said, "Tell me truly what you think. If the people know you will be shot if they light another fuse, what will they do?" . . .

"I don't know," said the Mayor. "I think they will light the fuse."

"Suppose you ask them not to?"

jest against the State. Prosecutor and Judge solemnly weigh the effectiveness of the joke and the punishment is more severe if it is funny and therefore likely to be repeated. Every harmless bit of nonsense becomes a serious matter of State. A heavy penalty was meted out for the story about the famous brother burglars called Sass. "Who set the Reichstag on fire?" "The brothers Sass.—S. A. and S. S." —LOUIS NIZER, "German Justice," *Opinion*, 4-42.

## LANGUAGE—Army

Explaining that "Army paper work is a mystery to the uninitiated but is just as clear as crystal to experienced staff officers," the Scott Field (Ill.) Broadcaster publishes the following:

*Under consideration:* Never heard of it.

*Under active consideration:* Will have a shot at finding the file.

*Has received careful consideration:*

## "Flies conquer flypaper . . ."

Orden seemed asleep; his eyes were drooped, and he tried to think. He said, "I am not a very brave man, sir. I think they will light it, anyway. . . . Yes, they will light it. I have no choice of living or dying, you see, sir, but—I do have a choice of how I do it. If I tell them not to fight, they will be sorry, but they will fight. If I tell them to fight, they will be glad, and I who am not a very brave man will have made them a little braver."

Lanser said, "If you say yes, we can tell them you said no. We can tell them you begged for your life."

And Winter (the town doctor) broke in angrily. "They would know. You do not keep secrets. One of your men got out of hand one night and he said the flies had conquered the flypaper, and now the whole nation knows his words. They have made a song of it. The flies have conquered the flypaper."

Orden fingered his gold medallion. He said quietly, "You see, sir, nothing can change it. You will be destroyed and driven out." His voice was very soft. "The people don't like to be conquered, sir, and so they will not be. Free men cannot start a war, but once it is started, they can fight on in defeat. Herd men, followers of a leader, cannot do that, and so it is always the herd men who win the battles and the free men who win wars."

A period of inactivity covering time lag.

*Have you any remarks?* Can you give me any idea of what it is all about?

*In the air:* Completely ignorant of the whole subject.

*You will remember:* You have forgotten or never knew, because I don't.

*Concur generally:* Have not read the document and don't want to be bound by anything I say.

*In conference:* Gone out — don't know where he is.

*Kindly expedite reply:* For gosh sakes try and find the papers.

*Passed to higher authority:* Pigeon-holed in more sumptuous office.

*Appropriate action:* Do you know what to do with it? We don't.

*Giving him the picture:* Long, confusing and inaccurate statement to newcomer.

*Transmitted to you:* You try holding the bag for awhile. I'm tired of it.

## Confidentially thru a Megaphone

Casting the motion picture *Wake Island* is proving a real Hollywood headache. California Japs offered roles turn them down on grounds of leaving bad enough alone. Chinese actors, who have often doubled for sons of Nippon, refuse indignantly. . . . Unexpected development in the screening of Walt Disney's latest: young children in audience start crying sympathetically at plight of "poor little Dumbo." . . . Due to belief that there's enough woe in the world, producers plan gradually to lighten the themes of daytime radio serials. They are known as "soap operas" or "wash-board weepers" because so many are, or were originally sponsored by soap companies.

Twenty-five privates of Chanute Field, Illinois, chipped in to buy the Pres. a pen to sign the pending Congressional bill which provides boosts in pay for enlisted men. . . . Irked because alcoholics get draft deferment, Judge F. W. L. Miles, chairman of a Boston draft board, suggests Army organize a combat division of chronic drunks. . . . The Grand Rapids Minnesota draft board reports: "We give newly married husbands with no other dependents a 60-day furlough to find jobs—for their wives."

Soldiers eat 25% more in Army than when at home. . . . Covers of all major magazines will carry picture of American flag on issue current July 4. Under banner will be words, "United we Stand." . . . Alabama Representative has had inserted in *Congressional Record*, at cost of \$30 to taxpayers, a poem by a constituent, bearing title, "Let Us Have Peace and Wars Will Cease." . . . Pres. Roosevelt asks legislation forbidding use of Red Cross name or symbol by private individuals or business concerns.

Be sure to drain and save your anti-freeze. You'll need it next winter—if you have any tires to ride on. And have you heard about the Illinois policeman who, being informed that he could pay his income tax by quarters, started out by sending the Gov't two bits?

### MONEY—Purchasing Power

We hear a lot of talk nowadays about inflation, value of the dollar, and all that sort of thing. Some overlook the fact that not only does the purchasing power of a dollar vary from year to year, but what is even more important to us is that the value of a dollar varies according to one's age and one's position in life.

Someone has figured it out like this:

The value of a dollar to—  
A Wife (looking for bargains)..\$1.00  
An Executive (peak of earning power) ..... .50  
An Old Man (retirement age).. 5.00  
And a Widow (with children).. 9.00

### NATIONALITY

A columnist interviewing William Saroyan, the playwright, was trying to find out about a "short" on which Saroyan was working.

Columnist: "What nationality is the little old guy?"

Saroyan: "The human nationality. That's all there is, the human nationality."

### PARENT-CHILD RELATIONS

What to tell children when their fathers go off to service is something that bothers many mothers these days.

Children take color from the moods of their parents. . . . When the child asks about his father, it will take all the courage a mother can summon to answer cheerfully.

Some children will be old enough to understand that father's absence has within it a hint of danger. Don't deny that, but don't accent it. Say yes, father is in the war. Yes, sometimes people are killed, but many times they are quite safe. Yes, father had to go because it was his duty. When his duty is done he will come home. What a fine day that will be.

. . . Keep p'anning for that time and avoid the in-between days as much as possible.—ANGELO PATRI, noted educator and child psychologist, in his daily newspaper feature.

### PRAYER—In Wartime

I've just seen the best poster so far in this war. It's by Howard Chandler Christy and shows Uncle Sam, dishevelled and harassed, on his knees in supplication to God. The title is "For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever."

This poster is issued by the Laymen's Nat'l Committee, and under it

is the plea, "Give us the faith and courage of our forefathers." It ought to be in every home and shop in America, and on most of the billboards.—DAVE BOONE, in his Syndicated Column.

### War Babies

There are more reasons than ever for having children now. Children are going to build the future—and it must be good. The world is ill now, but that does not mean that it cannot recover. Much of the recovery depends on a strong youth, which will help build a better world.

I don't believe there is a valid reason for swinging away from normal. I am not talking about breeding just to increase the race. I believe that married people who are able-bodied, intelligent and resourceful should have children. They are a fulfillment and a long-range stake in the future.—Mrs. S'DONIE GRUENBERG, President, Child Study Ass'n.

" "

This is a very bad time to have children. There are three reasons: (1) The administration is trying to get people worried about the future. This feeling of insecurity creates a wrong condition under which to have children; (2) Glandular upsets of the mothers during a period of worry and anxiety affect the children; (3) In case the children should be born healthy, we have the nutrition question, to say nothing of the mental atmosphere of deprivation in the home.

Every woman in this country who wants to have a healthy, normal child should wait until there is assurance of security for the child and parents, too.—Mrs. MARGARET SANGER, President, American Federation of Birth Control.

### REVENGE

A store mailed a Kansas City dentist a box of neckties. Enclosed was a note expressing the opinion that he was too busy to do his own shopping and the hope that he would appreciate the selection and the request that he send a check for \$11. The dentist sent the store an old set of artificial teeth, and a note saying he was certain they should fit someone in so large an establishment. Included was a bill for \$100. Next day a young woman from the store hurried over to exchange the teeth for the neckties.—*Colorado Springs (Colo.) Gazette*.



## RUMOR—In Wartime

In the early days of the war, professional weepers in France, wandered about the subways and buses of Paris, dressed in somber colors and with black-ringed eyes. They spread the idea that French casualties were enormous, while the Government was keeping the alarming news from the public. Parisians went home and gossiped with their families. Soon the rumor spread over the whole of France and it was too late for an official denial to undo the evil.—DAVID BERNSTEIN, "Why, Everybody Knows."

## SERVANTS

"How do you manage to keep your servant girl so well satisfied nowadays?" a housewife was asked.

"There's not much to it," replied the lady modestly. "Thursday, you know, used to be the maid's night out. Well now she takes the rest of the week and Thursday is our night out."

## SPEAKERS, SPEAKING

A certain English novelist came over to the United States to do a lecture circuit. Addressing a midwestern audience, he began to realize, after about 15 minutes, that he wasn't being listened to very attentively. He interrupted his dull talk and announced that he was going out for a 10-minute smoke.

"Please gather your wits while I'm out," he urged them in his best professorial manner.

When he returned he found a neatly penned note on the rostrum:

"We gathered our wits."—MURRAY TEIGH BLOOM, "Guinea Pigs of Gab," *Coronet*, 3-42.

## SYMBOL—American

When God made the oyster, He guaranteed him absolute economic and social security. He built the oyster a house, a shell to protect him from other animals and other oysters. When hungry, the oyster opens up his shell and the food rushes in.

But when God made the eagle, what did He do? He said, "The blue sky is the limit. Get out, and build your own house," and the eagle goes out and builds his house on the highest mountain crag, where danger and disaster threaten him every day. For food, he flies through a thousand miles of rain and snow and wind and mountain.

The eagle and not the oyster is the emblem of America.—*The Journeyman Barber Hairdresser and Cosmetologist*, 4-42.

## American Scene

## The People's Declaration

By H. L. MENCKEN

Mr. Mencken, editor of that exhaustingly authoritative work, *The American Language* (Knopf) suggests that this is about the way the Declaration of Independence should read if reduced to the language of the proverbial Man on The Street:

When things get so balled up that the people of a country have got to cut loose from some other country, and go it on their own hook, without askin' no permission from nobody . . . exceptin' maybe God Almighty . . . then they oughta let everybody know why they done it . . . so everybody can see they're on the level and not trying to put nothin' over on nobody.

All we gotta say on this proposition is this: *First*, me and you is as good as anybody else and maybe a damn sight better! *Second*, nobody ain't got no right to take away none of our rights. *Third*, every man's got

a right to live, to come and go as he pleases, and to have a good time whichever way he likes so long as he don't interfere with nobody else. *Fourth*, any government that don't give a man them rights ain't worth a damn. What's more, people oughta choose the kind of government they want themselves . . . and nobody else oughta have no say in the matter.

When a government *don't* do this, the people have a right to can it and put in one that will take care of their interests. Of course that don't mean havin' a revolution every day. It's better to stand a little graft than to have revolutions *all* the time.

But when things get so bad that a man ain't hardly got no rights at all no more . . . but you might almost call him a slave . . . then everybody oughta get together and throw the grafters out . . . and put in new ones who won't carry on so high and steal so much and THEN WATCH 'EM!

## WAR—Co-ordination

"Rather puzzling about that new American naval base in Eritrea," said Alice.

"What do you find puzzling about it, child?" said the Red Queen sharply. "It doesn't puzzle me in the slightest."

"Well, Mr. Lyttleton says it is going to be a whacker, and Mr. Roosevelt won't say anything about it at all."

"Quite right," said the Queen complacently. "It may not be there."

"It may not be there?" echoed Alice in surprise.

"Certainly. It may be a mirage, you know. Very common in these parts of the world. You ought to have been taught that, child."

"But why do censors pass mirages on one side of the Atlantic but not on the other?"

"Why do mirages happen in Eritrea but not in Ealing?" countered the Red Queen. "Anyway, isn't it all splendidly confusing for the Germans? If they want to know what it is they'll have to go and look for themselves. And if they do go they won't know whether what they see is a mirage or not."

"But doesn't it all show," said Alice doubtfully, "a great lack of what they call co-ordination?"

"Co-ordination?" cried the Red Queen. "Co-ordination? Now that is a mirage, if you like."—*The Manchester Guardian Weekly*, England, 3-13-42.

## WAR—Secrecy

At a special thanksgiving service the vicar of a small parish on the South Coast mentioned that the bomb recently removed from the churchyard was found to be a "dud."

Sometime later he was accosted by a stranger. "You are a fool, a murderer, and a traitor to your country." Terribly agitated the clergyman asked what he had done or said to warrant such language.

"You said publicly that the shell had been dropped by a lone raider on a given date. The Germans were able to trace both the machine and the factory from which the shell was issued. Inquiry was made with the result that a certain percentage were found to be worthless. Three Czech workmen were consequently forced to face a firing squad as a result of your revelation, and one of them was my brother!" — J. PROCTOR, Condensed from *Tit-Bits*, London.

## GENS FROM Yesteryear

A Preacher and a Boy  
By DAVID GRAYSON

RAY STANNARD BAKER, editor, author and biographer, wrote nostalgic essays under the homespun name of "David Grayson." These were published originally in American Magazine, of which Baker was an associate editor from 1906-15. Later, in book form, they attained wide popularity. The excerpt below is from the volume *Adventures in Contentment* (Doubleday, 1912). Mr. Baker was born at Lansing, Mich., in 1870.

Ours was a church of failures. They sent us the old, gray preachers, worn out in other fields. Some thundered the Law, some pleaded Love; but of all of them I remember best the one who thought himself the greatest failure. He told my father once: "It was not given to me to reach men's hearts."

Oh gray preacher, will you forgive me? I was a boy whose emotions were hidden under mountains of reserve; who could have stood up to be shot more easily than he could have said: "I love you."

Of that preacher's sermons I remember that they were long and dull. Yet the tow-headed boy sitting there was thrilled to the depths of his being by that preacher. He had a spark in him. It was a spark of poetry; strange flower in such a husk. How vividly I recall his reading of the twenty-third Psalm—a particular reading. I saw the way to the place of death that morning; far more vividly I saw it than any natural scene I know: and myself walking therein. I shall know it again when I come to pass that way; the tall, dark, rocky cliffs, the shadowy path within. And I, with my magic rod and staff walking boldly, fearing no evil, full of faith, hope, courage, love, invoking images of terror but for the joy of braving them.

I felt, somehow, that the preacher too was a familiar of my secret valley. I should have liked to ask him, but I did not dare. So I followed my mother when she went to speak to him, and when he did not see, I touched his coat.

Ah, that tall lank preacher who thought himself a failure! Heaven he gave me, unknowing, while he preached an ineffectual hell.

## Good Stories YOU CAN USE...

Ring Lardner was once asked to speak at a banquet. He sent the chairman a telegram which was read out at the dinner. "Regret extremely my inability to attend your banquet. It is the baby's night out, and I must stay home with the nurse!"—FRANK CROWNINSHIELD, *Vogue*.

### "I LAUGHED AT THIS ONE"

LLOYD C. DOUGLAS  
Clergyman and author of  
*Magnificent Obsession*

Mr. Goldberg, returning from Europe, was assigned by the head steward to a table for two. Here he was presently joined by a polite Frenchman who, before sitting down, bowed, smiled, and said, "Bon appetit." Not to be outdone, Mr. Goldberg rose, bowed, and said, "Goldberg."

This little ceremony was repeated at each meal. On the fourth day, Mr. Goldberg confided his complexity to a man in the smoking lounge:

"It was like this, you see. The Frenchman tells me his name—Bon Appetit—and I tell him my name—Goldberg. So we are introduced. That is good. But why keep it up day after day?"

"Oh—but you don't understand, Mr. Goldberg," replied the other. "Bon appetit isn't his name. It means 'I hope you have a pleasant meal.'"

"Thanks," said Goldberg.

That night Mr. Goldberg arrived late for dinner. Before sitting down he bowed formally, and said, "Bon appetit."

And the Frenchman rose, smiled, and murmured, "Goldberg."—EDNA B. SMITH, *The Best I Know*. (Waverly, \$1.75).

A sample of the newest high-school humor is the following question and answer:

"What is Hollywood's newest war-dog hero?"

"Rin-Plastic-Plastic, to replace Rin-Tin-Tin."—ERNIE PYLE, in his Syndicated Column.

A Wall Street broker whose firm occupies an entire floor in one of the big downtown hives became puzzled by the fact that the young lady elevator operator always said, "Watch your step!" when she stopped at his floor, even after a three-point landing. Finally he came right out and asked her why this was. "I don't know, sir," she said. "All I know is that we have instructions to say 'Watch your step' at your floor."—*The New Yorker*.

## WISECRACKS of the Week

Sign in a service station: "No smoking near gas pumps. Maybe your life isn't worth saving, but gasoline is."

" "

Someone is always ready to turn down the idea that you have thought up.—Lansing (Mich.) *State Journal*.

" "

An antique is something no one would be seen with if these were more, but which everyone wants when no one has any.

" "

The difference between a Chinaman and a Jap is—a Jap carries a camera.

" "

The only time women should take part in public affairs is when you want the affairs public.—*The Reformatory Pillar*.

When I joined the United States Army in 1917, I still didn't speak English very well. It's a wonder they let me into the army with a German accent—they might have taken me for a spy or something, but they thought the accent was funny. Except the time I was on sentry duty in New Jersey and told the Colonel to "Advance and be recognized." I must have had trouble saying that word "recognized" because the Colonel stopped and said, "Good Heavens! Have the Germans got this far?"—LUDWIG BEM-ELMANS, *I Am An American*, (Alliance, \$1.50).



